

travels a lot due to work requirements. Recognizing this, she uses an RFO in each city she visits plus one in Alexandria, so she can get mail and parcels where she wants. Jane visits 22 cities a year. So she needs 23 addresses to get mail and parcels where she wants, 24 if her home address is counted. Since she does not know when she will be in each city, she finds it hard to know where to send mail to where she will be. She learns this lesson after having mail/parcels stranded for months at several RFOs until she can get back to each one as her job allows.

[0012] She then discovers that each of these RFOs not only receives mail for her, they can forward it too. Thinking she has made a breakthrough, for her next business trip, she tells RFOs 1-18, and 20-23 to forward her mail and parcels to RFO 19. To do this she has to contact all 23 operators of her respective RFOs. For all but RFO 19 she tells them to forward her mail and parcels to RFO 19. For RFO 19 she tells them to hold her mail and parcels for pick-up. No sooner does she get to the city where RFO 19 is, when she finds she now has to go to another city, to where RFO 12 is located. So she contacts each RFO with another set of instructions. And so it goes, until one day her boss tells her that her territory has been expanded to 122 cities! Jane gives up.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0013] There is a need for a new addressing model relating to mail and parcel delivery and forwarding that overcomes the deficiencies of the historic and currently accepted legacy model and practice of one address per person per physical location or per delivery point of mail and parcels.

[0014] The invention overcomes the problems and deficiencies of the currently accepted legacy model and practice of one address per person per physical location or per delivery point of mail and parcels by providing a system and method that allows for the implementation of at least one unique virtual dynamically-capable (UVDC) address code relating to mail and parcel delivery and forwarding for a Subscriber. Associated with these UVDC address codes is an informational data set, comprised of at least one piece of information, that pertains to mail/parcel disposition, including such information as delivery and forwarding instructions. During the implementation of UVDC addressing, any recipient of the mail/parcel or Facility, with access to the subject system, can ascertain and transact the disposition of the mail and

parcel, on behalf of the Subscriber, the entity that holds ("owns") the subject UVDC address code, based on a last known informational data set pertaining to the delivery and forwarding of mail/parcels associated with the respective UVDC address.

[0015] To finally solve this need for being able to take delivery of mail and parcels wherever a person was at the moment or wanted their mail and parcels to be, a new addressing model is provided. This model is based upon a unique virtual dynamically-capable (UVDC) addressing system and method. The basis of which lies in creating an addressing scheme that is both unique and at the same time not dependent on any particular physical mail/parcel delivery point. Furthermore, this model is predicated upon address management, at the system level, which oversees the implementation of all UVDC address codes. It should be noted that the legacy model is in fact a subset of this new model (UVDC addressing in a non-dynamic implementation) and as such, the UVDC addressing model does not invalidate the legacy model but works "on top of" or is "transparent" to it. This is essential since the current nationwide mail and parcel delivery infrastructure is based on the legacy model. The new model exploits this infrastructure during its implementation; the end goal being – getting mail and parcels intended for a recipient, when and to where the Subscriber wants them to be.

[0016] Participants in the UVDC addressing model are:

[0017] 1) Subscribers – Those that use the UVDC addressing system to get mail and parcels delivered to their desired final delivery point. They provide the informational data set to the Host. Subscribers can be "inserters" of mail and parcels into the UVDC addressing system as well as recipients of mail/parcels that have been transacted through the UVDC addressing system. Subscribers can also be a legal "entity" that owns the UVDC address code for a business or other group of persons, such as a corporation. As such, a Subscriber need not be an individual.

[0018] 2) Facilities – The physical locations and operations where UVDC addressed mail and parcels are processed and handled. Legacy addressed mail and parcels may also be processed and handled at a facility. Mail and parcel tracking and identification are initiated and conducted here. Any Facility can be an intermediate or final delivery point.

[0019] 3) Host – The entity that implements the UVDC addressing system and method.

[0020] 4) Non-Subscribers – Those that can “insert” UVDC addressed mail and parcels into UVDC addressing system as well as be recipients of legacy addressed mail and parcels that have been transacted on behalf of Subscriber.

[0021] 5) Non-Facilities – Legacy address model capable ONLY mail and parcel handling and processing locations and operations. All mail and parcels processed here are treated as legacy addressed mail and parcels.

[0022] 6) Delivery/Delivered/Deliverers – The transport mechanism for mail and parcel delivery.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] The foregoing and further objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of preferred embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 shows an exemplary block diagram of a mail and parcel addressing management system according to the invention; and

Fig. 2 shows an exemplary flow chart of the operation and capabilities of the addressing system of Fig. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0024] To effect this new model, as stated earlier, the existing mail and parcel address and delivery infrastructure, typified by the U.S. Postal Service, will be exploited. It will be the existing mechanical foundation on which the UVDC model will be placed.

[0025] Since this new UVDC address and associated system will be transparent to the existing mail and parcel address and delivery infrastructure, it must conform to the implementation of the legacy model so as not to invalidate its usefulness, let alone its methodology. To do so, the inventive unique virtual dynamically-capable (UVDC) addressing system and method as exemplified by Figs. 1-2 behaves as follows:

[0026] In the inventive UVDC addressing system 100, a Subscriber 110 is granted or assigned a unique UVDC address code from a Host 120 upon registration into the UVDC addressing system, via one or more conventional or subsequently